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March 27. 1689. *W. CANT.*

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THE

Biſhop of Rocheſter's

SECOND

LETTER

To the Right Honourable

The Earl of *Dorſet* and *Middleſex*,

LORD-CHAMBERLAIN

OF

His MAJESTY's Houſhold.

In the Savoy:

Printed by *Edward Jones*, MDCLXXXIX.

THE
Bishop of Rochester's
SECOND
LETTER

To the Right Honourable
The Earl of *Dorset* and *Middlesex*, &c.

MY LORD,

I Cannot in Good Manners make my Address to your Lordship in another Letter, without premising my most Humble Thanks for your favourable Acceptance of the former; and for your kind Recommendation of my Plea, to Men of Honour and Goodness, by the Powerful Authority of your Approving it.

And now, My Lord, ſince you have in ſo generous a Manner, admitted me once to be your Client, I am come again to put my whole Cauſe into your Hands. For it was my Chance, I know not how, to have ſuch a ſhare in One or Two other Public Affairs of the late Times, as obliges me to make a Second Defence. Though I have always thought, that, next to the committing Offences, nothing can be more Greivous to an Ingenuous Mind, than to be put upon the neceſſity of making Apologies.

However, upon the Encouragement your Lordſhip has given Me, I take the boldneſs to ſay, that in the Matters about which I trouble you this once more, I truſt, I have good Ground for an honeſt and open Vindication of my ſelf. The One was,

my

My Part in King *Charles* the Second's Declaration, touching the Conſpiracy; the other was, My acting in the Commiſſion for the Dioceſe of *London*, during the Suſpenſion of my Lord Biſhop.

But then my Lord, after my Apology, I ſhall crave leave to add that which needs None, I mean an Account of what paſt between King *James*, and ſome of the Biſhops, a little before the late wonderful Revolution; which tho' the Circumſtances of it are not ſo generally known as they ought to be, yet, I am ſure, had a very conſiderable effect for the benefit both of Church and State, in that Critical time. And therein I may preſume to ſay, that I had ſome part: So that when I come to that, perhaps I ſhall be able to Speak more freely, and ſhall venture to inſiſt

upon it, as a manifeſt proof to the World, that the Biſhops had then as difficult a Poſt to Maintain, and Maintain'd it as firmly, as any other Order of Men in the Kingdom could do Theirs, for preſerving the Liberties and Properties of the Subject, as well as the Intereſt of the Proteſtant Religion.

Firſt, my Lord, as for the Book of the Conſpiracy, 'tis true, I have often heard, that ſome Noble and Eminent Perſons, whoſe Kindred or Friends were unhappily concern'd in the Subject of that Hiſtory, had entertain'd a prejudice againſt me thereupon. But to them I ſhall make this equitable Requeſt, that they would ſuſpend any farther Cenſure of me for what I did write, till they ſhall be fairly informed how much there is that I have not written.

I will not deny, that it was at the Requeſt, or rather the Command, of King *Charles* the Second, that I drew up a Relation of that Plot: And, to that end, I had free liberty to conſult the Paper-Office and Council-Books, whence I was plentifully furniſh'd with ſuch Authentic Materials, either of Papers Printed by Authority, or of Sworn Depoſitions and Confeſſions, as have been always thought the beſt Ground for an Hiſtorian to work upon.

But now, my Lord, I can ſtill alege, That tho' a vaſt heap of ſuch Matter was immediately ſupplied to my hands; and tho' I often received earneſt Meſſages, and ſome Sharp words from that gentle King to quicken my Slowneſs, yet more than twelve Months had paſt, before I could be brought

to put Pen to Paper; out of my Natural Averſion to any Buſineſs, that might reflect ſeverely upon any Man; my own Inclination rather leading me to the other Extream, that is, Rather to Commend too much what in the leaſt ſeems Well-done, than to Aggravate what is Ill-done by others.

However, upon King *Charles*'s frequent Commands, and continued Importunity, I did at length obey; and the rather, becauſe I had formerly ſomewhat incurr'd that King's and his Brother's Diſpleaſure, by my declining to write againſt the States of *Holland*, during the time of the Firſt and Second *Dutch*-Wars.

Being thus over-perſuaded, I made my Collections, and Preſented them to that King: Which his Majeſty having himſelf peruſed, was pleaſed

to

to direct me to put them into the Hands of the Lord Keeper *North*, who carefully Read and Corrected what I had done, and added divers matters of Fact, which had escaped my Observation.

Thus the Work stood in Preparation for the Press, when the deplorable Death of that King hapned. And shortly after, King *James* the Second calling for the Papers, and having read them, and Altered divers Passages, caused them to be printed by his own Authority, as is to be seen before the Book.

But now, my Lord, I can truly declare, that during my composing those Collections, I earnestly requested King *Charles* the Second, (and your Lordship knows as well as any Man, how agreeable such a Request was

to

to the Benign Temper of that King) I requeſted him I ſay, that few or no Names of Perſons ſhould be mentioned, whatever probable ſuggeſtions might be againſt them, but only ſuch, upon whom public Judgment had paſſed, which it could be to no purpoſe for me to conceal,

I could indeed have wiſh'd, that my Lord *Ruſſel's*, and ſome other Names of Perſons of Honour, might have been of the Number to be omitted, upon that very account. But 'twas none of my fault that they were not. I could not hinder, nor did I in the leaſt contribute to their Fall. Nay, I lamented it; eſpecially my Lord *Ruſſel's*, after I was fully convinc'd by Diſcourſe with the Reverend Dean of *Canterbury*, of that Noble Gentleman's great Probity, and Conſtant Abhorrence

horrence of Falſhood. But that was a good while after. All that I did, was the Publiſhing, or rather indeed the putting together methodically, what before was ſufficiently publiſhed in printed Papers that were Licenſed: And out of them, to draw the Subſtance of a Declaration of State, in Vindication of that, which the Authority of the Nation, at that time, called The Public Juſtice of the Kingdom.

But, my Lord, to return to what I was ſaying, King *Charles* having granted my deſire of Concealing divers Names; according to this Allowance I proceeded; leaving out ſome, and abbreviating others; endeavouring all along to ſpare Parties and Families, and particular Perſons, as much as would be allowed. All which may be demonſtrated from the Copies

of the Depoſitions, as they went out of my hands, where there were ſeveral Names viſibly marked by my own Pen, to be paſſed by in the Publication. So that if ſome Indifferent Man ſhould now compare the Informations as they are in Print, with the Originals in the Secretary's, or the Paper-Office, he would, it may be, be apter to ſuſpect Me of Connivance, than of Calumny on that ſide.

If I have now given your Lordſhip any ſatisfaction touching my fair Dealing in My Part of that Book, I doubt not but what follows will give you more; when I ſhall aſſure you of my having refuſed to Write a Continuation of the ſame Hiſtory. For, my Lord, it was ſome time after the Duke of *Monmouth*'s Overthrow and Execution, that King *James* the Second

required

required me to undertake ſuch another Task, and preſently to ſet about a Second Part. To that purpoſe His Majeſty gave me a ſight of multitudes of Original Letters and Papers, together with the Confeſſions of ſeveral Perſons then taken in *England* and *Scotland*; who did indeed ſeem all to outvy one another, who ſhould reveal moſt, both of Men and Things relating to the old Conſpiracy, as well as to the Duke of *Monmouth's*, and the Earl of *Argyle's* Invaſion.

But finding the Innocence of divers Perſons of Worth and Honour, touched in thoſe Papers, and by that time beginning vehemently to ſuſpect things were running apace towards the endangering of our Laws and Religion, I muſt ſay, I never could be induced by all his Majeſties reiterated

Commands, to go on with that Work. Inſtead of that, tho' I had all the Materials for ſuch a Narrative within my Power, for above three Years, and might eaſily have finiſhed it in a Month or Six Weeks ſpace, yet I choſe rather to Suppreſs and Silence, as much as I could, all that New Evidence; which, if openly produced, would have blemiſhed the Reputation of ſome Honourable Perſons.

Give me leave, My Lord, only to add, That I am confident, there are ſeveral Original Papers ſtill in being, which would be more than enough to convince all impartial Men, how Moderate and Tender I was in that Cauſe.

Next, My Lord, having mentioned my being concerned in the Commiſſion for the Dioceſe of *London* in that

that I had the good Fortune to be join'd with an excellent Perſon, my Lord Biſhop of *Peterborough*. And we can both truly ſay, that as we enter'd into that Commiſſion with my Lord of *London*'s Good Will, ſo we acted nothing in it, without the greateſt Reſpect to his Intereſt.

It is well known we continued all his Officers in the full Profits and Privileges of their Places. We faithfully maintained the Rights of his Biſhopriek, and once in the Kings own Preſence, againſt his Majeſties expreſs Inclinations, in a Buſineſs of no leſs Concernment than my Lord Mayor's Chapel. We never Invaded any of my Lord Biſhops Preferments that fell void in that Interval; We diſpos'd of none but according to his own Directions. We uſed his Clergy with the

the ſame affectionate Care and Brotherly Love, as He himſelf had done; Who was on that Account, as Dear to them, as any Biſhop in Chriſtendom was to his Dioceſe.

And we Appeal to them, whether we might not rather expect their Kindneſs and Thanks, than ſuſpect their Ill-will for all our Tranſactions with them. Nor can this be thought a vain Boaſt to any Man, who ſhall ſeriouſly reflect on the terrible Aſpect of Things from Court upon the *London*-Clergy, during the whole time of our exerciſing that Juriſdiction. The Remembrance whereof, makes me not doubt to affirm, that if my Lord Biſhop of *Peterborough* and I, had not then ſtood in the Gap, but ſome other Perſons, who were prepared to be thruſt in, upon our leaving that Commiſſion, had got

it

it absolutely into their Power, 'tis possible the most Learned and Pious Clergy in the World, had been somewhat otherwise imployed than they were; and had been too much taken up in defending themselves from the violent Persecutions of the Popish Party, to have leisure to confute and triumph over the Popish Cause; as they entirely did in their admirable Writings, to the Glory and Establishment of the Church of *England*.

My Lord, to the truth of what I have here said concerning the Commission of *London*, I have the Bishop of *Peterborough* ready to attest. I should indeed be glad I could claim as just a share in another of his Lordships Meritorious Services to the Public, as I may do in this. But in that I cannot, for 'tis Evident the Seven

Bishops,

Biſhops, whereof he was One, had ſuch an opportunity put into their Hands by God's Providence, for the overthrow of Popery and Arbitrary Power, by Their Sufferings for delivering their Senſe of King *James* the Second's Declaration, as 'tis likely never any of the Epiſcopal Order had before, and 'tis to be hop'd, will never have again.

This however I will ſay, I had certainly added my ſelf to their Number, if I had then underſtood the Queſtion, as well as I did afterwards upon their Tryal, where I was preſent in order to be a Witneſs in their behalf, at the ſame time your Lordſhip and many other Noble Lords were there, to give Countenance to ſo Good a Cauſe.

There

There it was, My Lord, that I was firſt convinced of the falſe Foundations and miſchievous Conſequences of ſuch a Diſpenſing Power, as that on which the Declaration was grounded. So that I have ever ſince been perſwaded, that from that Petition of thoſe Biſhops, ſo defended by the invincible Arguments of their Learned Council on that Day; and ſo juſtified by the honeſt Verdict of their Undaunted Jury on the next Day; from thence I ſay, we may date the firſt great ſucceſsful ſtep, that was made towards the reſcuing of our Laws and Religion.

For my Part I muſt own, I was ſo fully ſatisfied by the excellent Pleadings of thoſe great Lawyers at that Tryal, that I confeſs I never had till

then ſo clear a Notion, what unalterable Bounds the Law has fix'd between the Juſt Prerogatives of the Crown, and the Legal Rights of the Subject. And therefore from that very Day I haſten'd to make what Reparations I could for the Errors occaſion'd by my former Ignorance; and to act for the future, what I always intended, as became a true Engliſh Man.

Nor was it long after, that I met with a Signal Opportunity to put this my Purpoſe in practice. For perceiving the Rage of the Popiſh Party againſt the Church of *England* was rather heightned than abated, by my Lords the Biſhops being acquitted; and fearing the Eccleſiaſtical Commiſſion was next to be Employed, to wreak the Papiſts Revenge on the *Orthodox Clergy*,

Clergy, when *Weſtminſter-Hall* could not do it; I preſently reſolv'd to Deſert that Commiſſion; from whence I had often before Laboured and Intreated in vain to be fairly Diſmiſs'd: And immediately I ſent the Commiſſioners the following Letter; whereof Your Lordſhip may remember I then preſented you with a Copy: as knowing how much You would be pleaſed, with my other Friends, at my forſaking that Board upon any Terms.

To the Right Honourable My LORDS, His Majesties Commissioners for Ecclesiastical Affairs, &c.

MY LORDS,

I *Most humbly intreat your Lordships favourable Interpretation of what I now write, That since your Lordships are resolved to proceed against those, who have not comply'd with the King's Commands in Reading His Declaration, it is absolutely impossible for me to serve His Majesty any longer in this Commission. I beg leave to tell your Lordships, that thô I my self did submit in that particular, yet I will never be any ways instrumental*

mental in Punishing those my Brethren who did not. For as I call God to witness, That what I did, was merely upon a Principle of Conscience; so I am fully satisfied, that their Forbearance was upon the same Principle. I have no reason to think otherwise of the whole Body of our Clergy, who, upon all occasions, have signaliz'd their Loyalty to the Crown, and their Zealous Affections to His Present Majesty's Person in the worst of Times. Now, my Lords, the Safety of the whole Church of England seeming to be exceedingly concern'd in this Prosecution, I must declare, That I cannot, with a safe Conscience, Sit as Judge in this Cause, upon so many Pious and Excellent Men: With whom, if it be God's Will, it rather becomes me to suffer, than to be in the lest Accessary to their Suffering. I therefore earnestly request Your Lordships

to

to intercede with the King, that I may be graciously dismiss'd any farther Attendance at Your Board, and to Assure His Majesty, That I am still ready to Sacrifice whatever I have to His Service, but my Conscience and Religion.

MY LORDS,

I am Your Lordships

Most Faithful, Humble,

and Obedient Servant,

Bromley, Aug. 15. 1688.

Tho. Roffen.

Your Lordship seeing what I have said in this Letter, concerning my Submitting in that business of the Declaration, upon a Principle of Conscience, as I then thought, You may expect my Reason for doing so. I

I muſt frankly confeſs, I had then a Doubt in my Mind, ariſing from a Rubrick in the Common-Prayer, (which is, as much as any other, a Law of the Land) whether a Biſhop could lawfully deny the Reading of whatever the King ſhould Ordain to be Read in Churches. And 'twas merely upon that Miſtaken Scruple of Conſcience, I was induced not to Oppoſe that Command of the King in Council: I ſay, not to Oppoſe it: Farther than that, I ſtill ſay, I went not in that Buſineſs. For it is moſt true, That the Orders of Council, for Publiſhing that Declaration in Churches, were diſperſed through the Places of my Juriſdiction immediately from the Kings Printing-houſe, without my Injunction, or ſo much as my Knowledge.

And I

And after they were ſent abroad, thô I did not, 'tis true, Revoke them, as not being then well determined in the Caſe, yet I no where inſiſted to have them obeyed. Nay, both in my own Diocese of *Rocheſter*, and in that of *London*, where I had then very unwillingly ſome Inſpection, there is no one *Clergy-man* can upbraid me, for Urging any Man to Read, or Reproving any for not Reading the Declaration.

If it ſhall be objected, that I permitted it to be Read in *Weſtminſter-Abby*, I deſire it may be alſo conſider'd, what dreadful Apprehenſions this Royal Church and School were then under, from our Neighbours the Jeſuits at Court; who lay in wait to take any Advantage, whereby they might ſtir up the King to Ruin us.

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Besides that a *Quo-Warranto* was then actually Issued out against *us*, and we were every Day threatned, that as we were the neareſt, ſo we ſhould fall the firſt Prey, into the Hands of the Popiſh Prieſts.

But to go on, I need not Remind your Lordſhip, what Wrath and Indignation this Letter to the Commiſſioners produced againſt me, from the Jeſuited Party at Court: For which yet I eſteemed my ſelf abundantly Recompenſed by the Peace it gave me in my own Mind, and I hope I may ſay, by the good Will it Revived towards me in the Hearts of Good Men; eſpecially of my Lord Archbiſhop and the other perſecuted Biſhops, with whom I ever

after acted in perfect Conjunction for the Public Good.

That, My Lord, is the laſt particular whereof I promiſed to give your Lordſhip an Account. And I come to it more chearfully than I did to the reſt, becauſe this is the only matter of all I undertook to Speak of, wherein I am not Conſcious to my ſelf, that I need any Excuſe.

It was therefore ſome time after the Tryal of the Seven Biſhops, and after my leaving the Commiſſion, when upon the Kings ſudden return from *Windſor*, and the firſt Alarm given of the Preparations in *Holland*, my Lord of *Canterbury*, and ſome of his Suffragan Biſhops, whereof I had the Honour to be One, were

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ſent for by expreſs Letters dated *September* the 24th, to attend his Majeſty at *Whitehall*. Accordingly all of us that were in Town, except my Lord Archbiſhop, who was then very ill, waited on the King the *Friday* following being the Day appointed. But little or nothing paſſing betwixt his Majeſty and us, at our firſt Attendance, beyond general Expreſſions of his Favour, and our Duty, we intreated my Lord of *Canterbury*, to procure for us a Second, and more particular Audience; wherein we might all deliver our plain and ſincere Senſe of Things, as we ſaw the dangerous Condition of the Church and State then required from Men of our Character. And on the *Sunday* after,

my Lord Archbishop, obtain'd of the King that we should be admitted to a full Liberty of Speech with him the next *Tuesday* Morning.

All *Monday* we spent at *Lambeth*, in preparing the Humble Advice we thought fit to offer the next Day. But the King being otherwise accidentally diverted on *Tuesday* Morning, our Attendance on him was put off till *Wednesday*. Whereas had we been admitted to his Majesty that *Tuesday*, we could not have failed of getting some Credit to our selves, and to the Church, for having Requested him to Restore the Charter of *London* among other Charters. For from the very beginning of our Consultations, we had fixed upon that to be One of our Principal Petitions.

titions. Whereof his Majesty, perhaps having had some private Intimation, thought it more for his Service to prevent us, by making it an Act of his own Grace. This is certain, that very *Tuesday* in the Evening, he first declared publicly in the Council, to divers eminent Citizens, his purpose to restore the City Charter. So that, when we came the next Day, we found nothing left for us to do towards that great Affair, but only to turn our intended Request into Thanks, as we did.

However, on *Wednesday* Morning, we had our Second Audience, when my Lord of *Canterbury* deliver'd our Free and Honest Advice, with such a becoming Meekness, Gravity, and Courage as indeed was Admirable.

Now

Now becauſe there has been hitherto only an imperfect Relation Printed of what paſſed at that Meeting, I think it may not be unacceptable to the Public, to give here an exact Account of our whole Proceedings with the King in that Affair; as it was drawn up by my Lord Archbiſhop himſelf. And it had been Happy, if all Addreſſes to his Majeſty had been alike Faithful to the King's and the Kingdom's Intereſt.

For

For his Grace the Ld Archbiſhop of Canterbury,

MY LORD,

THE King thinking it requiſite to ſpeak with Your Grace, and ſeveral others of the Biſhops, who are within a convenient diſtance of this place; His Majeſty commands me to acquaint you, that he would have you attend him upon Friday *next, at Ten in the Morning.*

MY LORD,

I am Your moſt Faithful, *&c.*

Whitehall, Sep. 24. 1688. *Sunderland* P.

Letters to the same purpose, and of the same Date, (or about that time) were sent to the Bishops of London, Winchester, Ely, Chichester, Rochester, Bath *and* Wells, Peterborough, *and* Bristol; *all which (but* London *and* Bristol*) came to Town; and all, but the Archbishop, waited on the King at the time appointed. The next day the Bishop of* Winchester *went out of Town, and the day after that, the Archbishop waited upon the King alone, and by His Appointment, on* Wednesday, October 3. *all, who remained in Town, went together to His Majesty, to whom (in the Name of the rest) the Archbishop spake, as followeth.*

May

May it pleaſe Your Sacred Majeſty,

WHen I had lately the Honour to wait upon you, you were pleaſed briefly to acquaint me with what had paſs'd two days before, between Your Majeſty and theſe my Reverend Brethren: By which, and by the Account which they themſelves gave me, I perceived, that in truth there paſs'd nothing, but in very general Terms, and Expreſſions of Your Majeſty's Gracious and Favourable Inclinations to the Church of England, and of our Reciprocal Duty and Loyalty to Your Majeſty: Both which were ſufficiently underſtood and declared before; and (as one of my Brethren then told you) would have been

The Biſhop of *Bath* and *Wells*.

in the ſame State, if the Biſhops had not ſtirr'd one foot out of their Dioceſes. Sir, I found it griev'd my Lords the Biſhops to have come ſo far, and to have done ſo little, and I am aſſured, they came then prepared to have given Your Majeſty ſome more particular Inſtances of their Duty and Zeal for your Service; had they not apprehended from ſome Words, which fell from your Majeſty, that you were not then at leiſure to receive them. It was for this reaſon, that I then beſought your Majeſty to Command us once more to Attend you All together; which your Majeſty was pleaſed Graciouſly to Allow and Encourage. We are therefore here now before you, with all Humility, to beg your Permiſſion, that we may ſuggeſt to your Majeſty ſuch Advices, as we think

pro-

proper at this Seaſon, and conducing to your Service, and ſo leave them to your Princely Conſideration. Which the King being pleaſed graciouſly to permit, the Archbiſhop proceeded, as followeth. *Our Firſt humble Advice is;*

I. *That Your Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to put the Management of your Government, in the ſeveral Counties, into the Hands of ſuch of the Nobility and Gentry there, as are legally qualified for it.*

II. *That Your Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to Annul your Commiſſion for Eccleſiaſtical Affairs; and that no ſuch Court, as that Commiſſion ſets up, may be Erected for the future.*

III. *That Your Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed, That no Diſpenſation may be granted, or continued; by Virtue whereof, any perſon, not duly Qualified by Law, hath been, or may be, put into any Place, Office, or Preferment, in Church or State, or in the Univerſities, or continued in the ſame; eſpecially ſuch, as have Cure of Souls annext to them: And in particular, that you will be graciouſly pleaſed to reſtore the Preſident and Fellows of St.* Mary Magdalen College *in* Oxford.

IV. *That Your Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to ſet aſide all Licenſes or Faculties already granted; by which, any Perſons of the Romiſh Communion may pretend to be enabled to teach Public Schools; and that no ſuch be granted for the future.*

V. That

V. *That Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to desist from the Exercise of such a Dispensing Power, as hath of late been used; and to permit that Point to be freely and calmly Debated and Argued, and finally setled in Parliament.*

VI. *That Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to inhibit the Four Foreign Bishops, who style themselves* Vicars Apostolical, *from farther Invading the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, which is by Law vested in the Bishops of this Church.*

VII. *That Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to fill the Vacant Bishopricks, and other Ecclesiastical Promotions, within your Gift, both in* Eng-

land

land *and* Ireland, *with Men of Learning and Piety : And in particular, (which I muſt own to be my peculiar Boldneſs, for 'tis done without the privity of my Brethren:) That you will be graciouſly pleaſed forthwith to fill the Archiepiſcopal Chair of* York, *(which hath ſo long ſtood Empty, and upon which a whole Province depends) with ſome very Worthy Perſon : For which (pardon me, Sir, if I am bold to ſay) you have here now before you a very fair Choice.*

VIII. *That Your Majeſty will be graciouſly pleaſed to ſuperſede all farther Proſecution of* Quo Warranto's *againſt Corporations, and to Reſtore to them their Ancient Charters, Privileges, and Franchiſes ; as we hear God hath put*

put it into Your Majesties Heart to do for the City *of* London ; *which we intended to have made, otherwise, one of our Principal Requests.*

IX. *That if it so please Your Majesty, Writs may be issued out with convenient speed for the Calling of a Free and Regular Parliament, in which, the Church of* England *may be Secured according to the Acts of Uniformity; Provision may be made for a due* Liberty of Conscience, *and for securing the Liberties and Properties of all Your Subjects ; and a mutual Confidence, and good Understanding, may be Established between Your Majesty, and all Your People.*

X. *Above all, that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to permit Your*

Bi-

Biſhops to offer you ſuch Motives and Arguments, as (we truſt) may, by God's Grace, be Effectual to perſuade Your Majeſty to return to the Communion of the Church of England; *into whoſe moſt Holy Catholick Faith you were Baptized, and in which you were Educated, and to which it is our daily earneſt Prayer to God, that you may be Re-united.*

Theſe (Sir) are the Humble Advices, which, out of Conſcience of the Duty we owe to God, to Your Majeſty, and to our Country, we think fit at this time to offer to Your Majeſty, as ſuitable to the Preſent State of your Affairs, and moſt conducing to your Service, and ſo to leave them to your Princely Conſideration. "*And we*

"*heartily*

" *heartily beſeech Almighty God, in*
" *whoſe Hand the Hearts of all Kings*
" *are, ſo to Diſpoſe and Govern Yours,*
" *that in all your Thoughts, Words, and*
" *Works, you may ever ſeek his Honour*
" *and Glory, and ſtudy to preſerve the*
" *People committed to your Charge, in*
" *Wealth, Peace, and Godlineſs; to*
" *Your Own both Temporal and Eter-*
" *nal Happineſs.* Amen.

We do heartily Concur.

W. Cant.
Fran. Ely.
Jo. Ciceſtr.
Tho. Roffen.
Tho. Bath and Wells.
Tho. Petriburg.
H. London.
P. Wincheſter.
W. Aſaph.

It is for others Information, not for yours, My Lord, that I have been ſo Punctual and Minute in the Circumſtances of this Buſineſs, wherewith your Lordſhip was fully made acquainted, juſt after the very time, at *Copthall*, as much as my Lord of *London*'s and my Memory could Serve us to do it.

But one thing farther I muſt obſerve as very Remarkable in this Affair, that if the exact time of this our Addreſs to King *James* at *Whitehall*, ſhall be compar'd with the Day of the Prince of *Orange* his preſent Majeſties ſetting forth his Firſt Declaration in *Holland*, they will both be found to bear very near the ſame Date. For our Addreſs here, was form'd at *Lambeth* on *Monday*,

Monday, October the Firſt, and ſhould have been deliver'd on *Tueſday* the Second, and was actually preſented on *Wedneſday* the Third. And that Declaration was Sign'd there on the Tenth of *October*, which, conſidering the Two Styles, makes little or no Difference.

And if I might preſume to compare Small Things with Great, in the Matter of them as well as in the Date, I would venture to ſay, that moſt of the very ſame Grievances, which his Highneſs inſiſted on in his Declaration, except One or Two, that were too high for us Subjects to meddle with, were ſo early repreſented by us to the King in that Petition, as Things neceſſary to be ſpeedily Redreſs'd.

And, My Lord, I cannot but add, that this we did in a time when the King thought of nothing less than Victory; when in all Humane probability, he was the strongest both by Sea and Land; when as yet there was no appearance of such a Prodigious Alienation of his Subjects Affections; when at least his Army was thought to be still firm to him; when the very Winds and Seas seem'd hitherto as much on his Side, as they all afterwards turn'd against him.

After that, My Lord, as I remember the next Solemn time of our Waiting on King *James* the Second, was occasion'd by the Interception of the Prince of *Orange*'s Declaration here in *London*, some short time

time before his Highneſs's Landing, For upon Reading that Expreſſion in it, " That the Prince was moſt " earneſtly Invited hither by divers " Lords both Spiritual and Tempo- " ral, and by many Gentlemen and " Others of all Ranks; the King forthwith ſent for ſome of the Bi- ſhops, who were neareſt at hand, and required us to Juſtifie our Selves to the World, as to our Part in that Invitation. To this end, His Ma- jeſty fixed a Short Day, whereon He obliged us to preſent him a Paper under our Hands, ſignifying our Abhorrence of the Prince of *Orange*'s intended Invaſion.

My Lord, the Day came; and great Throngs there were at Court, expecting the Iſſue of that Confe-

rence:

rence: We saw both the Friends and Enemies of the Church of *England*, equally impatient, to know what we would do in that difficult Moment. The King himself had affirm'd to us, He thought his good Success exceedingly depended upon our Ready Compliance with his Command of Abhorring. A Declaration was then in the Press against the Prince of *Orange* the present King, and was only stopp'd for our Paper of Abhorrence to be inserted into it: And there happen'd to be but Four of our Number, my Lord of *Canterbury*, my Lord of *London*, my Lord of *Peterborough*, and my Self, who were present upon the Place to endure that terrible Brunt.

In

In ſhort, as ſoon as we were come into the King's Preſence, His Majeſty with great Earneſtneſs called for our Paper; We with all Submiſſion intreated to be Excuſed from writing any thing of that Nature, and from making a particular Defence to a general Accuſation; leſt we ſhould give the Firſt Precedent of that kind, againſt the *Privilege* of *Peers*. Beſides that, our Profeſſion being to promote Peace, VVe thought it belong'd not to us to declare VVar, eſpecially againſt a Prince ſo nearly Ally'd to the Crown.

But the King ſtill more Inſiſted, Argued, and Expoſtulated with us; inſomuch, that if ever in all my Life I ſaw him more than ordinary vehement in Speech, and tranſported

in

in his Expreſſions, it was at that time.

However, we ſtill made good our humble Refuſal, in as dutiful Terms as 'twas poſſible: Among many Arguments, urging chiefly, That as we were joyn'd with our Brethren, the other Lords Spiritual, and with the Lords Temporal, and with the Gentry of *England*, in the Accuſation; ſo we beſeech'd him, we might not be ſeparated from them in our Juſtification: Concluding all with an earneſt Requeſt to His Majeſty, that He would be pleaſed to Condeſcend to the Calling a Free Parliament: Wherein only he could rightly underſtand, what was the General Senſe, and True Intereſt of the whole Kingdom.

At

At laſt, when neither the King would hearken to our Zealous Motion for a Parliament, nor we could be prevailed on, to Subſcribe an Abhorrence of the Prince of *Orange*'s Deſign, His Majeſty parted from us with Indignation. And thereupon the Jeſuited Party at Court were ſo violently enraged againſt us, that, as we were credibly informed, one of the Chief adviſed in a heat, we ſhould all be Impriſoned, and the Truth ſhould be extorted from us by Violence.

I told your Lordſhip, the Concluſion of that our Serious Debate with the King, was on our Side the begging him to call a Free Parliament. The truth is, a Free Parliament was the main Point, and the

laſt Reſult of all our Requeſts to His Majeſty, from the Firſt Day of his admitting us to give him our honeſt Advice, till the time of his leaving the Kingdom.

I need not put your Lordſhip in mind of the Petition we preſented him to the ſame purpoſe, which was Signed by divers of the Spiritual and Temporal Lords, and, among others, by your Self; and was afterwards Seconded from ſeveral Parts of the Nation; eſpecially by the Noblemen and Gentlemen Aſſembled at *York*, and by the Fleet under the Command of my Lord *Dartmouth*, and by the Lord Biſhop, and the Clergy, and the Citizens of *Briſtol*. As it had been alſo ſoon followed by the reſt of the Kingdom, had there been

been time enough for the doing of it.

But having mentioned that Petition for a Free aud Regular Parliament, I hope it will not be thought Preſumption in me, if I ſuggeſt, I had the Honour to have it Conſidered, Agreed on, and Sign'd, at my houſe at *Weſtminſter*: And that I was one of the Four Biſhops (the Two Archbiſhops and my Lord of *Ely* being the other Three) who ventured to deliver it to the King, after we heard he had proteſted he would take it highly Ill of any Man that ſhould offer him a thing of that Nature. Nevertheleſs we did it, and thought our ſelves bound in Duty to God and Man ſo to do.

Your Lordſhip perceives, all that I have ſaid on this laſt Subject, concerns only ſome few Particulars that paſs'd in Three or Four Conferences between King *James* the Second, and ſome of the Biſhops, who happen'd then to be within Call. Thô we had afterwards the Concurrence of our Abſent Brethren. And we may now appeal to all the World, whether we did not Demean our Selves in thoſe hazardous Occaſions, with that Zeal againſt Popery, and for the Legal Eſtabliſhment both in Church and State, as became the Station we hold in Both.

If your Lordſhip's Leiſure would permit me to look farther back, and to recount what was Written, Acted, or Suffered, by the Members of the Church

Church of *England* in general during that Reign; 'twere eaſie to recollect ſo many Memorable Inſtances of unſhaken Truth and Courage in the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, and Commonalty of our Communion, in maintaining our Religion againſt *Rome*, and our Laws againſt unlimited Power, as might well furniſh ſufficient Materials for an ample Relation.

I know it was formerly a popular Objection of divers miſguided Diſſenters from the Church of *England*, that our Principles were too Monarchical; and that we carried the Doctrine of Obedience farther than might be conſiſtent with the ſafety of a Proteſtant Church, or the Privileges of a free-born People.

But

But it is now to be hoped, that the ſtrongeſt Argument of all others, which is Experience from undoubted Matter of Fact, has put this Objection for ever out of Countenance. Since it is undeniable, that during that whole time, when our Civil and Spiritual Liberties were in ſo much Danger, the greateſt, and moſt conſiderable ſtop, that was here put to the Arts of *Rome*, and Intrigues of *France*, was Put by the ſteddy Reſolution of the true Sons of the Church of *England*.

I pretend not to upbraid any Party or Sect among us, for any undue Compliance in that Time. But this I will Aſſert, that generally Speaking, the whole Body of the Church of *England*, both Laity and Clergy did not Comply. Nay,

Nay, it were Infinite to reckon up the Examples, we then ſaw every Day, of Men of all Conditions, from the higheſt to the loweſt, All Members of the Church of *England*; who preferred the ſaving of the Eſtabliſht Government in Church and State, before any Temptations of private Profit or Intereſt.

Not to ſay any thing more of the Learned and Unanſwerable Writings of that time againſt Popery: For in that Merit, I ſuppoſe none of any other Perſuaſion will enter into any Competition with the Orthodox Clergy: But I now only Speak of thoſe many Honourable Self-Denials, which the Church of *England*-Men then Practiſed, for the Sake

Sake of the true Engliſh Liberty, and Reformation.

What Officers and Commanders were there almoſt in the whole Army, beſides the Sons of the Church of *England*, who choſe to be Diſcarded from thoſe very Troops and Regiments, which their own Intereſt and Money had raiſed, rather than contribute to take away the great Fences of our Liberty and Religion? What Officers in the Courts of Juſtice, and in the ſeveral Branches of the Revenue? What Members of Boroughs, Corporations, and Cities, in Compariſon of thoſe of the Church of *England*, endured the loſs of their Places of Truſt and Profit, for not Conſenting to Aboliſh the Teſts and Penal Laws againſt Papiſts? VVhat

What eminent Nobility and Gentry in all Counties, ſubmitted chearfully to be ſlighted, and deprived of all Authority and Power among their Neighbours, in Peace or War? Were they not generally, and almoſt to a Man of the Church of *England*?

Was not a conſiderable Part of the Court it ſelf turn'd out? Did not divers Perſons of the higheſt Titles and Dignities there endure to loſe their Princes Favour, upon this very Account? Did we not ſee the moſt Advantageous, and moſt Honorable Offices, the very White Staves, and the greateſt of them, not valued, but eaſily parted with, when Religion came in Queſtion?

I need not go on to recite more particularly all theſe Things, eſpecially to your Lordſhip, who were your Self one of the Noble Sufferers in the ſame Cauſe. 'Twill be ſufficient to affirm once for all, that the main Body of thoſe, who made ſo brave a Stand, were all of the Church of *England*; and the Principles on which they ſtood, were all Church of *England* Principles.

My Lord, it was by theſe Perſons, and theſe Principles, that Popery was ſtopt in its full Career; by theſe it was then hindred from Conquering, and put into a Condition to be ſhortly after Conquer'd it ſelf in this Nation.

After having troubled your Lordſhip ſo long with my own Private Cauſe,

Cauſe, and having ſaid ſomething too, in the behalf of what is much more dear to me, the Public; pray let me conclude with that, which, in this Juncture of Affairs, may be counted well nigh another Public Cauſe: Let me Preſent you with my Humbly well-meaning Opinion, what Moderation is to be ſhewn towards thoſe, who happen'd to be employed in the late Times.

My Lord, 'twould be great Preſumption in me, having been my ſelf too far engaged, to offer at an Apology for other Perſons concern'd then, either with me in the Commiſſion, or in any other Public Buſineſs; particularly for ſome of your Lordſhips Acquaintance, whoſe Cauſe may be more Defenſible than

mine; and I am ſure their Abilities to defend it, are much greater. Only in general, I will take the freedom to ſay, That I make no Queſtion, but divers Good Men, who were then in Imployments, did in Prudence, ſubmit to ſome things in Order to hinder Worſe. I doubt not but many Acted then not to Increaſe, but to Mitigate the Violence of thoſe Times. Some were in ſuch Stations, which perhaps 'twas well done of them, not ſuddenly to Deſert, leſt worſe Men ſhould come in, to do that which they deſign'd to prevent. I believe, ſome being, as it were, in the middle of the Stream, when the Tide turn'd ſo Violently againſt our Eſtabliſht Church and Laws, were driven down

down lower than they expected, before they could resist the Current, or get to Shore. Wherefore, considering all Circumstances, 'twas well so many mistook not the true Interest of the Nation. 'Twas happy so many preserv'd their Integrity; so many had the honest Hardiness to stand unmoved by the Importunity of their King, whom they were bred up to Honor, and in all things else to Obey.

And in common Sense of human Frailty, are not many Infirmities at such a time as that, to be overlook'd now, by wise and good Men? Do not many false Steps so made, deserve to be pitied? May it not be thought some kind of Merit, or some degree of Innocence at least, not to have made more, in such a slippery Ground as we then trod on? If

If, my Lord, every Failure of that Time, ſhould be eſteemed a Criminal Compliance, every Compliance ſhould be judg'd unpardonable, VVho then, that remain'd under the Government, can be counted Innocent? VVho ſhall be able juſtly to throw the firſt Stone? VVhat Place will be then left for the Offender's Hope, or for a Prince's Forgiveneſs, the Nobleſt and moſt Divine Part of Power?

My Lord, the conſtant Experience of all wiſe Times has ſhewed, that all Civil Diſſentions and Quarrels are beſt ended by the largeſt Acts of Indemnity and Oblivion: In *England* eſpecially, where Good Nature is ſoon apt to have Compaſſion upon the Afflicted. Here perhaps ſcarce any thing can be more dangerous to the

Party

Party that is uppermoſt, than to put *Engliſh-men* upon pitying thoſe that ſuffer under it. And certainly this Revolution, if ever any, ſhould be Mild in the Event, ſince it was Bloodleſs in the whole Courſe of it, in a time, when there was moſt danger of Effuſion of Blood.

I will ſay no more, my Lord, but this, that after great and unexpected Changes, That hath been always found the firmeſt Settlement of any State or Government, where the Prevailing Party hath look'd but very little backward, and very much forward; where Private Animoſity and Revenge have wiſely given way to the greater Benefits of Public Pardon and Indulgence.

Perhaps, towards the Beginning of great Reformations, a VVarm impetuous Spirit may have its uſe; but to Compoſe Things after ſudden Commotions, to Calm Men's Minds for the future, to Settle Affairs in a ſecure and laſting Peace, moſt certainly a Gentle, Generous, Charitable Temper, is the beſt: And to ſay all in one word, Such a Temper as is your Lordſhips.

MY LORD,

Weſtminſter, Mar. 26. 1689.

I am Your Lordſhip's

Moſt Faithful, Humble,

and Obedient Servant,

Tho. Roſſen.

FINIS.